

**REMARKS**

The present amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action dated September 12, 2003, which set a three-month period for response, making this amendment due by December 12, 2003.

Claims 10-12 and 14-18 are pending in this application.

In the Office Action, the drawings were objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) as not showing every feature of the invention as specified in the claims, specifically, the A pillar and engine hood hinge. The disclosure was objected to for various informalities. Claims 1-9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 2, 5, 7, and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 1,854,074 to Slingerland et al. Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slingerland et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,656,208 to Kato et al. Claim 8 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slingerland et al in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,672,709 to Fizyta et al.

The Applicant notes with appreciation the indicated allowability of claims 3 and 4, if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims and to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

First, the Applicant wishes to note that in the Simultaneous Amendment filed on June 12, 2001, original claims 1-9 were canceled and new claims 1-9 were added. However, these new claims should have been numbered as new

claims 10-18. Therefore, in this amendment, claims 1-9, added in the Simultaneous Amendment, have been renumbered as claims 10-18.

The claims have also been amended to change the "characterized in that" language to "wherein".

Turning now to the objections to the drawings, the Examiner request that the features "A-pillar" and "engine hood hinge" must shown in the drawings. The Applicant directs the Examiner's attention to page 6, lines 23-24, where it is stated that the body part 27 of the vehicle can be a hinge of an engine hood. Therefore, it is submitted that the line indicated by the reference numeral 27 also represents an engine hood hinge.

Regarding the A-pillar, the specification describes that the A-pillar is approximately parallel to the body part 27 of the vehicle (on page 9, lines 8-10). Thus, the line indicated by the reference numeral 27 can also be interpreted as the A-pillar. However, for the sake of clarity, a parallel line to the right of line 27 indicating the A-pillar can be added, if the Examiner feels this is necessary.

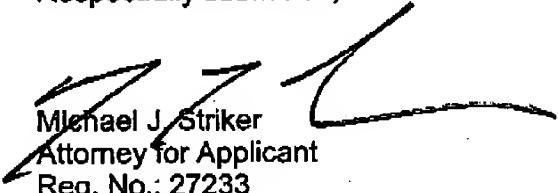
Claim 10 (former claim 10) has been amended to address the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

In light of the allowability of claims 3 and 4 (new claims 12-13), the Applicant has amended claim 10 to add the features of claim 13 (former claim 4), which has been canceled. Thus, claim 10 is now allowable, along with dependent claims 11-12 and 15-18.

In light of the foregoing arguments in support of patentability, the Applicant respectfully submits that this application now stands in condition for allowance. Action to this end is courteously solicited.

Should the Examiner have any further comments or suggestions, the undersigned would very much welcome a telephone call in order to discuss appropriate claim language that will place the application into condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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